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ments for the meeting with the anthropologists for the discussion of questions of educational research have been described under Section H.

The joint discussion with the chemistry section on the neglect of science in commerce and industry will be opened by Mr. R. Blair, the Education Officer of the London County Council, and Professor Bovey, F.R.S., Principal E. H. Griffiths, F.R.S., Sir William Tilden, F.R.S., and others have promised to take part. This will be in the afternoon of Monday, September 5.

The joint meeting of the physiologists for the discussion of voice production will occupy the afternoon of the following day, and papers have been promised by Dr. A. A. Gray, Principal Barrell, of Isleworth, Professor Wesley Mills, Mr. W. H. Griffiths and Miss Ormée, of Sheffield. Within the section itself will be discussions on hand-work and science in elementary schools, to be opened by Mr. J. G. Legge, director of education in Liverpool; and open-air studies in schools of normal type, to which contributions have been promised by Mr. J. E. Feasey, of Sheffield, Mr. G. G. Lewis, of Kentish Town, and Professor Mark R. Wright, of Newcastle-on-Tyne ("A Training College under Canvas").

In accordance with the usual practise, visits to schools and other educational institutions of interest will be arranged during the meeting.

THE ASSOCIATION OF OFFICIAL AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTS

THE twenty-seventh convention of the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists will be held in Washington, D. C., at the Raleigh Hotel, opening on November 10, at 9 o'clock. As the hotel will provide a large hall on the top floor of the building for the convention, as well as other facilities for the meeting, it is urged that the members make the Raleigh their headquarters, if possible, and reserve their rooms a few days in advance.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Thursday, November 10.

Morning session: Phosphoric acid; Nitrogen; Potash; Soils; Inorganic plant constituents.

Afternoon session: Appointment of committees (resolutions, etc.); Insecticides; Water; Committee A on recommendations of referees; reports of special committees—(amendments to constitution; appropriation; availability of phosphoric acid; compilation of by-laws; food standards; unification of terms; standardization of alcohol tables; testing of chemical reagents; unification of methods of analysis of fats and oils).

Friday, November 11.

Morning session: Food adulteration (reports to be called for in order given in list of associate referees).

President's address (special order for 12 o'clock).

Afternoon session: Food adulteration continued. Separation of nitrogenous bodies (meat proteids; milk and cheese proteids; vegetable proteids). Committee C on recommendations of referees.

Saturday, November 12.

Morning session: Dairy products; foods and feeding stuffs; Sugar (chemical methods and molasses methods); Committee B on recommendations of referees; committees (resolutions, constitution, etc.); Tannin.

Afternoon session: Drugs and medicinal plants.

H. W. WILEY,
Secretary

WASHINGTON, D. C.,
August 13, 1909

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. PICKERING, director of the Harvard Observatory, was reelected president of the Astronomical and Astrophysical Society of America at the meeting held in Cambridge on August 19. The other officers of the society, also reelected for the ensuing year, are: *First Vice-president*, George C. Comstock, University of Wisconsin; *Second Vice-president*, W. W. Campbell, director of

the Lick Observatory; *Treasurer*, C. L. Doolittle, University of Pennsylvania; *Councillors*, Frank Schlesinger, Allegheny Observatory, and W. J. Humphreys, Washington, D. C.

OFFICERS of the Harvey Society for the coming year have been elected as follows: *President*, Dr. Simon Flexner; *Vice-president*, Dr. John Howland; *Treasurer*, Dr. E. K. Dunham; *Secretary*, Dr. Haven Emerson; *Council*, Dr. Graham Lusk, Dr. S. J. Meltzer and Dr. James Ewing.

DR. ERNST STAHL, professor of botany at Jena, has been elected a corresponding member of the Vienna Academy of Sciences.

DR. W. J. HOLLAND, Professor Herbert Osborn and Dr. Henry Skinner represented the Entomological Society of America at the first International Congress of Entomology, held this month at Brussels.

PROFESSOR WILLIAM R. SHEPHERD, of Columbia University, has been chosen as representative of American universities at the Scientific Congress now being held at Buenos Ayres.

PROFESSOR A. G. WEBSTER has sailed for Europe, where he will represent Clark University as delegate to the centennial celebration of the University of Berlin.

PROFESSOR FREDERIC S. LEE, of Columbia University, will be a guest of the British Association for the Advancement of Science at its Sheffield meeting. Later he will take part in the proceedings of the International Physiological Congress in Vienna.

PROFESSOR FRANCIS E. LLOYD is spending the month of August at the Desert Botanical Laboratory, Tucson, Ariz., continuing his studies of transpiration and stomatal movement in ocotillo, *Fouquieria splendens*.

IN view of the removal of the work of the British Meteorological office to the new building in Exhibition-road, South Kensington, which is being arranged to take place in the autumn, Mr. R. G. K. Lempfert, M.A., superintendent of statistics, has been appointed to be superintendent of the forecast division, and Mr. E. Gold, M.A., fellow of St. John's Col-

lege, Cambridge, Schuster reader in dynamical meteorology, has been appointed superintendent of the statistics and library division.

SIR RUBERT BOYCE and his expedition of students from the London School of Tropical Medicine, who have been out to Sierra Leone and Sekondi on behalf of the government, directing the measures necessary for the suppression of the outbreak of yellow fever, are expected to return to Liverpool at the end of the month.

LIEUTENANT SCHIRAZE has left Tokyo with a party of twenty-five Japanese in a small schooner for the Antarctic regions. It is said that he proposes to try to reach the South Pole in advance of Captain Scott.

THE Duke of Mecklenburg has undertaken a second journey across Africa. He will enter West Africa by the Congo-Ubangi route to Lake Chad, and hopes to make his way to the Bahr-el-Ghazal through southern Wadai and other borderlands of the Sudan.

DR. JOHS. SCHMIDT, well known for his biological work in north Atlantic waters, lately started in the *Thor* on a cruise for oceanographical work under the auspices of the Danish government.

ACCORDING to a cablegram from Copenhagen to the Boston *Transcript* Captain Elmar Mikkelsen, with his expedition which sailed June 20, 1909, on the Danish Arctic ship *Alabama* to search for the bodies of the Erichsen Greenland expedition, was wrecked during the winter on the coast of East Greenland. Captain Mikkelsen and the entire party were saved and succeeded in effecting a landing on Shannon Island, off the coast of King William Land. From this point they were recently rescued. The expedition for which Captain Mikkelsen was searching when the *Alabama* was wrecked was that of Mylius Erichsen, who perished in November, 1907, while trying to return from the north coast of Greenland by way of the inland ice. He was accompanied by Lieutenants Haven and Broenlund. Lieutenant Broenlund's body was found in a crevice near a depot of the expedition and was buried there, but the other bodies were not found, owing to the heavy snowfall.

DR. CHARLES FAHLBERG, associated with Dr. Ira Remsen in the discovery of saccharine and subsequently a manufacturing chemist, died at Bad Nassau, on August 15.

MR. JOHN COLES, for twenty-three years map curator and instructor in practical astronomy and surveying of the Royal Geographical Society, has died at the age of seventy-seven years.

THE death is announced of Dr. R. Klee, head of the veterinary clinic at Jena.

AN International Congress on Pathology will be held in Turin in 1911.

THE second International Congress of Entomology, will, on the invitation of Professor Poulton, meet at Oxford in 1912.

THE third International Congress of Educational Hygiene was opened at Paris on August 2, at the Sorbonne, under the honorary presidency of Professor Landouzy, dean of the Paris College of Medicine, with 1,600 members in attendance.

ACCORDING to a cablegram to the daily papers the Pan-American Congress, now meeting at Buenos Ayres, has approved the recommendation of the bureau of the Pan-American Union to create a section dealing with commerce, customs duties and statistics, and to prepare a measure for establishing uniform values in international commerce. The congress also approved a recommendation to adopt the metric system, which will be submitted to the next Pan-American Congress. It indorsed the taking of the census in 1920 simultaneously in all the American republics. A convention relating to trade-marks was approved, according to which any trade-mark registered in any of the countries is to be considered as registered in all.

THE New York Academy of Medicine has purchased the property at No. 10 West 44th Street and No. 15 West 43d Street. This property has been acquired by the academy for the purpose of either remodelling its present building, which is adjacent to the new property, or erecting a new one.

THE following lectures will be given by the Harvey Society on Saturday evenings at the

New York Academy of Medicine: October 15, "Die Bedeutung der pathologischen Autopsie," by Dr. H. Chiari, of Strassburg, Germany; November 12, "Unit Characters in Heredity," by Professor W. E. Castle, of Harvard University; December 10, "Certain Clinical Aspects of Dyspituitarism," by Professor Harvey Cushing, of Johns Hopkins University; January 14, a lecture by Professor Arthur R. Cushman, of the University of London; February 4, "The Chemistry of the Proteins," by Dr. Thomas B. Osborne, of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station; February 25, a lecture by Professor Jacques Loeb, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research; March 18, a lecture by Professor H. Gideon Wells, of the University of Chicago.

Nature notes that the useful work of the extension section of the Manchester Microscopical Society is to be continued during the coming winter session. The purpose of this section is to bring scientific knowledge, in a popular form, before societies unable to pay large fees for lectures. In some cases a small fee is charged, but all money thus obtained is devoted to the expenses of the section. The work of lecturing and demonstrating is entirely voluntary and gratuitous on the part of the members of the society. The list of lectures from which secretaries of societies may choose includes some sixty-one subjects and the names of seventeen lecturers.

THE British Board of Education has issued a pamphlet containing a translation of the syllabus of instruction in mathematics which forms part of the new courses of study in the Austrian gymnasia. It has been thought desirable to make the translation in view of the fact that the reforms suggested by the Austrian program are similar to those which are being discussed in Great Britain. An additional reason for the publication of the pamphlet is to be found in the interest which has been aroused in the work of the International Commission on Mathematical Teaching established in connection with the International Congress of Mathematicians to be held in Cambridge in 1912.

ACCORDING to foreign journals a Berlin inventor, Mr. Hugo Gantke, has recently designed a simple device for the felling of trees. The trunks are cut by the friction of a steel wire about one millimeter in diameter, which, as demonstrated by practical tests, is able to cut through a tree of about 20 inches (50 cm.) in thickness in six minutes. The wire, which is carried to and fro by an electric motor, is heated by friction on the tree to such an extent as to burn through the timber, the result being a cut which is both smoother and cleaner than that effected by a saw. The wire will work satisfactorily on the thickest trees without the insertion of wedges into the cut, and trees may be cut immediately above or below the ground. In the latter case the stump may be left safely in the soil. The motor which actuates the wire is installed outside of the range affected by the fall of the tree, and when electricity is not already available it can be generated by a transportable power plant, consisting of a 10-horse power petrol motor and dynamo, which are left at the entrance to the forest during the felling operations. By this method large tropical trees up to 10 feet in diameter can be cut and felled by a single operator, a considerable advantage being the absence of any waste in the timber.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

GROUND has been broken for the library building at the University of Chicago, which is to serve as a memorial to the late President William Rainey Harper.

GROUND has been broken for the addition to Morse Hall, the chemical laboratory of Cornell University, the cost of which was provided for by Mr. Andrew Carnegie's recent gift of \$50,000.

THE cornerstone has been laid of the new building at Columbia University, in which the departments of the faculty of philosophy are to have their rooms.

LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY benefits under the will of Mr. T. S. Timmis to the extent of £10,000 to endow a cancer research laboratory.

WE learn from the *New York Medical Record* that at the University of Pennsyl-

vania with the opening of the coming fall session an elective course in tropical medicine will be offered under the immediate charge of Dr. Allen J. Smith, in conjunction with Dr. A. C. Abbott, Dr. G. E. de Schweinitz, Dr. William Pepper, Dr. W. H. Hartzell and Dr. H. H. Jacobs. The course will comprise instruction in medical climatology and geography, the hygiene of ships and of the tropics, protozoology, anthropology, helminthology, general medical pathology, diseases of the eye and of the skin, surgical diseases common to the tropics, pathology of tropical diseases, and systematic and clinical tropical medicine.

DR. JOHN HENRY MACCRACKEN has been designated as acting chancellor of New York University, the appointment to take effect on the resignation of his father, Dr. Henry M. MacCracken next month.

DR. L. C. KARPINSKI has been promoted to an assistant professorship of mathematics at the University of Michigan. He will give a course in the history of mathematics.

DR. FRANCIS M. SLACK, director of the bacteriological laboratory of the Boston Health Department, has accepted an instructorship in bacteriology in the Kansas State College.

CHARLES S. WILSON has been promoted to a professorship of pomology at Cornell University.

DR. GOTTLIEB HABERLANDT, professor of botany at Gratz, has been called to Berlin.

DR. A. GILBERT, professor of therapeutics at the Paris College of Medicine, has been appointed professor of clinical medicine to succeed Dr. Dieulafoev.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

SCHMIEDEKNECHT ON THE PARASITIC HYMENOPTERA OF THE FAMILY CHALCIDIDÆ

IN the ninety-seventh fascicle of Wytsman's "Genera Insectorum"¹ Dr. Otto Schmiedeknecht gives a treatment of the hymenopterous

¹ "Genera Insectorum," dirigés par P. Wytsman, Bruxelles, 97^{me} fascicule, Hymenoptera, family Chalcididæ, by Professor Dr. Otto Schmiedeknecht, 550 pages, 8 plates, 1909. (Price, 136 francs, or \$27.20.)